

#4/A 588  
4/3/02  
**Patent**  
Attorney Docket No: AM-00106.P.1-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C., 20231

Sir,

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT NO. 1**

Prior to examination, please amend the application as provided below:

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all of the claims, claims 1 through 16.

Please add the following claims, claims 17 through 47.

Thus, claims 17 through 47 are pending upon entry of this amendment.